



# Memorandum

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Councilmember Sylvia Arenas

**SUBJECT: SAFE PARKING PILOT  
PROGRAM EXPANSION**

**DATE:** March 26, 2019

Approved

Date

3.26.19

## RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve staff recommendation and;
2. Direct staff to include Cultural Competency as an area of evaluation for all future Requests for Proposals for City Safe Parking Programs, as well as consider this criteria for all future Housing RFPs.
3. Recommend that staff return to NSE this fall with a plan to leverage existing services such as workforce development, case management, and access to other government programs for safe parking sites.

## BACKGROUND

I'd like to thank housing staff for continuing to expand much needed City services to address our housing crises and the needs of every unhoused family in San José. As we invest in creative solutions that help more families get the support they need to enter into permanent housing, we should ensure that services take into account the cultural diversity of our City and our unhoused community.

By evaluating cultural competency, such as capacity for multi-lingual services, the City can make certain that funding goes towards agencies that can make the biggest impact across San José. We need housing solutions that serve the specific needs of our culturally diverse city. This is an important step towards ensuring that our services reflect our values and our commitment.

In addition, as we look at expanding safe parking programs with lower service models, we should leverage existing services like workforce development programs, case management, and

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access to other government programs that can support the success and economic independence of each participant.

I understand that this may require an additional staff member to source and integrate new partnerships. We should explore what it would take to increase our service capacity at our safe parking sites, in collaboration with local nonprofits and government agencies. It's vital that we find low cost methods to deliver basic access to services. If not, we will never be able to bring this model up to scale.

One idea would be a roving case manager that would be charged with visiting safe parking sites operated by the city – and maybe also by non-profit community partners – and offering case management services and coordinate access to other programs like WIC, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal.

I request that Housing return to NSE in late 2019 with a proposed plan so we can ensure the long-term success of participants in safe parking while still embracing a low-cost model.